



State of New Hampshire
WATER WELL BOARD



Roger B. Skillings, C.W.D. – P.I., *Water Well Contractor*
David R. Hunt, *Water Well Contractor*
Kelly M. Dobrowolski, *Pump Installer*
Richard P. Schofield, P.G., *Staff*

Steven Garside, *Technical Driller*
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*
Frederick H. Chormann, Jr., P.G., *State Geologist*
Steve Guercia, Certified Operator, *Public Member*

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NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES

June 4, 2015

A meeting of the New Hampshire Water Well Board (“Board”) was held on June 4, 2015, in the Department of Environmental Services Building in rooms 112 & 113, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

Present were: David Hunt, Chairman
Rene Pelletier, Secretary
Board Members: Steve Guercia, Steven Garside, Roger Skillings, Kelly Dobrowolski, and Frederick Chormann
NHDES Staff: Richard Schofield and Katie Murphy

Mr. Skillings brought the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M and passed the seat of Chairman to Mr. Hunt.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Skillings, and seconded by Mr. Chormann, the Board voted to accept the Minutes of the April 2, 2015 meeting, as printed.

Request for Exemption

Wragg Brothers Well Drilling

The Board considered a request for exemption of We 604.05 by Wragg Brothers of Vermont, Inc. (hereinafter Wragg Bros.) to decommission 19 wells for Pennichuck Water. The request was tabled at the previous meeting until Wragg Bros. submitted a document to the Board describing the proposed decommissioning method, and specific details about each well, including any known groundwater contamination sites within the vicinity of the wells. Jay Wragg from Wragg Bros. and Victoria Hawkes from Pennichuck Water were present for the discussion. Mr. Schofield presented separate reports submitted by Mr. Wragg for each of the six facilities included in the request. Mr. Schofield verified that property owners on the systems with easements were notified of the request for exemption. The letter sent to the property owners by Pennichuck Water was read into the record. Both Mr. Wragg and Ms. Hawkes stated that none of the wells included in the request are contaminated, which was confirmed by Brandon Kernen of NHDES. Mr. Wragg informed the Board that pumps were removed, casing verified, and depth of well verified at each well, and the three dug wells had been decommissioned.

Upon motion by Mr. Skillings, and seconded by Mr. Guercia, the Board voted to grant an exemption to the rule, We 604.05, for decommissioning four wells at Redfield Estates, two wells

at Oakwood Terrace, two wells at Avery Estates, six wells at Maple Hills Acres, two wells at Birchfields, and three wells at Hubbard Hills.

The procedure would require filling the bore holes with clean ½ inch diameter crushed stone at intervals of 100 feet or less, to a depth of 40 feet below the bottom of the well casing. A 4 foot seal would be installed with bentonite hole plug, between each successive interval of crushed stone, and the remainder of the well and casing would be filled with cement/bentonite grout mix to the surface.

Licensing

License Applicants

Mr. Schofield informed the Board that there were no complete license applications for review at this time.

Renewals

Mr. Schofield provided an update on renewals for the Board. Renewal forms were sent out on May 6, 2015 to 360 addresses and are currently being received and processed.

Reporting

The Board continued the discussion from the previous meeting regarding reporting. The Board sent letters containing invitation to the June 4th Board meeting by certified mail to five contractors to verify that they have correctly reported the number of wells constructed in 2014. Representatives from Streeter & Sons Well Drilling and Green Mountain Well Company, Inc., attended the meeting and submitted well completion reports that were accepted by the Board. Representatives from Judd Goodwin Well Co and Roth Artesian Well Company did not attend the meeting, but submitted late well completion reports prior to the meeting. A representative from Great Works and Test Boring, Inc. also did not attend the meeting, and Mr. Schofield informed the Board that he had not received notice that the certified letter sent to Great Works and Test Boring, Inc., was received.

The Board discussed potential enforcement actions available to the Board for licensees that fail to submit well completion reports. Mr. Pelletier suggested that notices to licensees be sent by certified and regular mail, and if there is no response to either, a notice should be sent requesting they come before the Board to discuss penalties. The Board agreed that contractors failing to submit reports will be identified through the annual review process and could be placed on probation based on objective criteria. Specific criteria that would trigger probation were discussed by the Membership and included more than one enforcement action for non-reporting in a period of five years. Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier, and seconded by Mr. Skillings, the Board voted to send a letter to Judd Goodwin Well Co and Roth Artesian Well Company notifying them that they are placed on probation, with a reporting requirement of four times a year, for a period of two years, due on the tenth of the month following the end of the quarter. Failure to comply with the requirements of the probation, or failure to file well completion reports within 90 days of completion of a well, would result in the scheduling of an administrative hearing to consider an action against the license.

Mr. Schofield updated the Board on the responses to a May 1 letter sent to dug well contractors reminding them of their obligation to submit well completion reports. The letter triggered the submission of a few well completion reports and an abandoned well registration report.

However, responses from most contractors indicated that they have not constructed any dug wells within the last two years.

Administrative Rules

PFGFHVAC Association Comments

Mr. Schofield presented a letter to the Board from the Plumbers, Fuel Gas Fitters, and HVAC of NH Association (hereinafter Association) outlining their opposition to the proposed rule changes regarding additional licensing of water well pump installers. The Board considered changes to the proposed rules to address the Association's concerns. After discussion, the Board agreed to exempt licensed plumbers holding a pump installer license from the business license fee. Other licensed businesses holding both a water well contractor and pump installer license would pay only one business license fee.

The Board also discussed granting an exemption for existing employees of a licensed plumber holding a pump installer license from the requirement for taking a pump installer exam. The discussion included existing employees of a licensed water well contractor or pump installer who have a minimum of three years of experience.

Review of April 2, 2015 Amendments

The Board reviewed the changes to the proposed rules as agreed upon at the April 2, 2015 meeting. Mr. Schofield will change the word "retains" to "employs" in We 302.06 (e) and will make changes to the proposed rules to reflect the discussed changes to license fees for businesses. All changes were approved by the Board.

Old Business

Legislative Update

Mr. Schofield informed the Board that HB498, relative to notification of radon and arsenic testing, had passed the NH Senate committee, but a final vote on the bill was pending.

Continuing Education

Mr. Skillings presented a successful seminar on May 13, 2015 for pump installers on geothermal construction. The seminar, "Sizing, Installing, and Maintaining Ground Heat Exchangers for Heat Pumps," was organized by the N.H. Water Works Association and was held at the NHDES auditorium.

New Business

Well Disinfection

Mr. Schofield informed the Board of changes in the concentration of sodium hypochlorite in household bleach. The concentration of household bleach has increased from 5.25 percent to 8.25 percent. The current disinfection ratio of amount of chlorine solution per water volume to meet the 50 mg/l required concentration is approximately 1 gallon of bleach per 1,000 gallons of water, and is based on the outdated 5.25 percent household bleach concentration. References to disinfection in the rulebook, exam, and study guide for the exam are based on a concentration of 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite in household bleach. The new disinfection ratio would be approximately ½ gallon of bleach per 1,000 gallons of water based on the 8.25 percent concentration.

Mr. Schofield asked the Board if this change in concentration would alter the recommendation of chlorine volume per water volume. The Board agreed that the increase in concentration of

sodium hypochlorite in household bleach, and the resulting increase in chlorine disinfection concentration in the well, would not be an issue for well disinfection and that the existing ratio should be retained.

Other

The Board discussed issues with the general exam. Mr. Hunt informed the Board that there are questions on the general exam that need to be reviewed and updated. Mr. Schofield also informed the Board that the eleventh edition of the Water Systems Council Handbook, which is used as a study guide for the exam, was recently replaced with a twelfth edition, and the eleventh edition is no longer available. The twelfth edition is significantly more expensive and does not contain information that pertains directly to the pump installer exam. Mr. Schofield suggested that the Board obtain a copy of the twelfth edition to give applicants guidance on what should be studied for the exam.

Upon motion by Mr. Garside, and seconded by Mr. Pelletier, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Rene Pelletier
Water Well Board Secretary